

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10

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P R 190600Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1696

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL PERTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MELBOURNE 0674

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S VISIT TO MELBOURNE

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S FIRST VISIT TO MELBOURNE ON JULY 17 AND 18, INCLUDED A SERIES OF APPOINTMENTS WITH AUSTRALIAN LEADERS, AS WELL AS ADDRESSING A JOINT LUNCHEON SESSION HOSTED BY THREE AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS FOLLOWED BY PRESS CONFERENCE. HIS SPEECH ATTRACTED CAPACITY CROWD OF 500. SPEECH ON U.S.-AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS DELIVERED WITH THE AMBASSADOR'S USUAL DEXTERITY AND WIT, RECEIVED A LONG, STANDING OVATION. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR GREEN BEGAN HIS MELBOURNE VISIT WITH A COURTESY CALL UPON THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA, MR HAMER, WHO STATED THAT HE HAD NOT EXPECTED THE ALP TO AIR ANY OF THEIR PROBLEMS AT THE RECENT SURFERS PARADISE CONVENTION -- IT WAS TO THEIR BENEFIT TO APPEAR UNITED; HOWEVER, THE REAL CRUNCH WOULD COME WITH THE MAKING OF THE BUDGET AND HERE WAS WHERE THE TRUE TEST OF THEIR INTENTIONS WOULD COME THROUGH. AS FAR AS MR. HAMER COULD SEE THE ALP COULD NOT DELIVER ON ANY OF ITS PROMISES UNLESS IT RAISED TAXES AND THIS IN ITSELF WOULD BE RENEGING ON ONE OF THE MAIN PLANKS IN THE  
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PARTY PLATFORM. HE THOUGHT THE STRUGGLE FOR FUNDS AMONG THE

VARIOUS CABINET MEMBERS IN ORDER TO ADVANCE PERSONAL PET PROJECTS WOULD CREATE STRONG ANTAGONISMS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR WAS GUEST OF HONOR AT LUNCHEON ON JULY 17 HOSTED BY SIR IAN MCLENNAN, CHAIRMAN OF BROKEN HILL PROPRIETARY LTD (BHP), THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT PURELY AUSTRALIAN CORPORATION. A DOZEN AUSTRALIAN LEADERS, REPRESENTING A CROSS SECTION OF THE BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL COMMUNITY AT THE MOST SENIOR LEVEL WERE PRESENT. LATER ON JULY 17 AFTERNOON THE AMBASSADOR VISITED THE CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICES AND MET THE ENTIRE STAFF INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY.

3. ON JULY 18 THE AMBASSADOR HAD PARTICULARLY USEFUL SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT OF THE ACTU AND ALP, BOB HAWKE, AND WITH CLYDE HOLDING, LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (ALP) IN VICTORIA. BOTH MEETINGS WILL BE COVERED BY SPECIFIC MEMCONS. ACTING CONGEN AND LABATT ALSO ATTENDED. DURING TWO HOUR MEETING WITH HAWKE, LATTER WAS MOST FRIENDLY, FRANK AND IMPRESSED UPON THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS AVAILABLE AT ANY TIME TO ASSIST; HE GAVE HIS PRIVATE OFFICE AND HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER TO AMBASSADOR WITH THE ADVICE THAT HE SHOULD NOT HESITATE TO USE IT AT ANY TIME. HAWKE SHARPLY CRITICIZED UNION LEADERSHIP INVOLVED IN FORD STRIKE, SAYING IT WAS A CLASSIC CASE OF UNION BUNGLING. HE HOPED TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON JULY 18 WHICH WOULD ASSIST IN REACHING A SOLUTION. HE SHOWED AN INTIMACY AND CLOSENESS TO WHITLAM WHICH BELIED THE NEWSPAPERS' DESCRIPTIONS THAT HE WAS LYING IN WAIT TO TOPPLE THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY. THE DISCUSSION COVERED SUCH SUBJECTS AS ILO, STATES RIGHTS, INFLATION IN AUSTRALIA, EVALUATION OF THE ALP CONVENTION AT SURFERS, PROBLEMS TO BE ENCOUNTERED BY THE LABOR GOVERNMENT IN ITS NEXT SIX MONTHS IN OFFICE (WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS FAR MORE TRYING THAN ANYTHING ENCOUNTERED TO DATE) AND THE INCREASINGLY RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR OF THE FEDERAL CABINET UNDER THE PRESSURE OF EXPERIENCE.

4. DURING HOUR LONG MEETING WITH CLYDE HOLDING, IN HIS PARLIAMENTARY CHAMBERS, HE SOUGHT TO EXPLAIN THE VICTORIAN POLITICAL SCENE AND IN SO DOING POINTED OUT THAT MELBOURNE AND VICTORIA WERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF SPLINTER PARTIES WHICH DID NOT FOLLOW THE STANDARD PATTERN SUCH AS THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY (DLP), THE AUSTRALIA PARTY, THE MILITANT SOCIALIST LEFT, AND THE MOST

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STRIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST LEADERS. HE WAS UNABLE TO PINPOINT THE EXACT CAUSE, BUT FELT MELBOURNE TO BE UNIQUE IN AUSTRALIA FOR ITS POLITICAL INTEREST AND ACTIVISM. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE MILITANT LEFT WERE AN UNIMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND THE ALP AND THAT IT WAS PROBABLY GOING TO BE NECESSARY TO "BREAK A FEW BACKS" IN ORDER TO BRING THESE RADICAL ELEMENTS INTO LINE.

5. AT THE JOINT WELCOMING LUNCHEON OF THE THREE AMERICAN SOCIETIES, THE AMBASSADOR MADE THE POINT IN HIS SPEECH THAT THE SLIGHT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE LARGER FACT THAT OUR TOTAL ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP, INCLUDING TRADE AND INVESTMENT, IS "MASSIVE, GROWING AND OF MUTUAL BENEFIT". PRESS COMMENT WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE. LUNCHEON WAS FOLLOWED BY A PRESS CONFERENCE HEAVILY ATTENDED BY THE LOCAL MEDIA. THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY THE TV INTERVIEWERS PREDICTABLY CONCERNED THEMSELVES WITH AMERICA'S CHANGING ROLE AND THE EFFECTS OF WATERGATE AND VIETNAM.

6. THE AMBASSADOR'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO MELBOURNE IS PLANNED FOR LATE OCTOBER AT WHICH TIME THE PREMIER WILL INTRODUCE HIM TO HIS CABINET AND THEIR WIVES, THE GOVERNOR WILL ENTERTAIN HIM AT LUNCHEON OR DINNER AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND CALLS WILL BE MADE ON THE CHIEF JUSTICE, THE LORD MAYOR AND THE MAJOR MELBOURNE PRESS LORDS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S IMPACT UPON THOSE HE MET OR WITH THOSE WHO HEARD HIM WAS EXTREMELY FAVORABLE. THERE WAS NO ANTI-AMERICANISM VOICED OR SUGGESTED AND NO APPARENT NEED FOR ANY WELL WISHES TO STATE THE OBVIOUS.  
BROWN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973MELBOU00674  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS BROWN  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <16-Oct-2001 by eisnerah, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <12-Dec-2001 by golinofr>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMBASSADOR GREEN'S VISIT TO MELBOURNE SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR GREEN'S FIRST VISIT TO MELBOURNE ON JULY 17  
**TAGS:** ECON, PFOR, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005